

larger freedom." Such lofty goals and objectives are comparable to those found in the preamble to the Constitution of the United States of America: "to . . . establish Justice, insure domestic tranquility, provide for the common defense, promote the general welfare and secure the Blessings of liberty to ourselves and our posterity . . ."

There is, however, one difference that must not be overlooked. The Constitution of the United States of America is a legitimate constitution, having been submitted directly to the people for ratification by their representatives elected and assembled solely for the purpose of passing on the terms of that document. The Charter of the United Nations, on the other hand, is an illegitimate constitution, having only been submitted to the United States Senate for ratification as a treaty. Thus, the Charter of the United Nations, not being a treaty, cannot be made the supreme law of our land by compliance with Article II, Section 2 of Constitution of the United States of America. Therefore, the Charter of the United Nations is neither politically nor legally binding upon the United States of America or upon its people.

Even considering the Charter of the United Nations as a treaty does not save it. The Charter of the United Nations would still be constitutionally illegitimate and void, because it transgresses the Constitution of the United States of America in three major respects:

(1) It unconstitutionally delegates the legislative power of Congress to initiate war and the executive power of the president to conduct war to the United Nation, a foreign entity;

(2) It unconstitutionally transfers the exclusive power to originate revenue-raising measures from the United States House of Representatives to the United Nations General Assembly; and

(3) It unconstitutionally robs the states of powers reserved to them by the Tenth Amendment of the Constitution of the United States of America.

It is time for this Congress to return to these time-honored American principles of liberty; not to put their hope in the promise of some international organization like the United Nations which would replace the Constitution of the United States of America with its Universal Declaration of Human Rights, thereby compromising American liberties in favor of government-imposed programs designed to enhance the economic and social well-being of peoples all around the world.

#### RESTORE FUNDING FOR INTERNATIONAL FAMILY PLANNING PROGRAM

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under a previous order of the House, the gentleman from New York (Mrs. MALONEY) is recognized for 5 minutes.

Mrs. MALONEY of New York. Mr. Speaker, in the past few weeks, thousands of doctors from the frontline in the global fight to save women's lives were here in our Nation's Capital as part of the International Federation of Gynecologists and Obstetricians conference. Many of these doctors have launched a petition drive urging the President and all of us to end the onerous gag rule that impedes their ability to treat their patients.

For these doctors, the death of some 600,000 women each year from pregnancy-related causes is not just a sta-

tistic. It represents their neighbors, their friends, their relatives, and their patients. It represents the fact that one out of every 48 pregnant women in their communities will not survive childbirth because of preventable complications. For these doctors, the fact that U.S. funding for international family planning and related reproductive health programs has declined 30 percent since 1995 has very real consequences.

Last week, we heard from Dr. Friday Okonofua, a physician that heads the Action Health Research Center in Nigeria, about his fight to save women and children's lives. In Nigeria, 50,000 women die annually from pregnancy and childbirth complication, 20,000 of these deaths from unsafe abortions.

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This accounts for almost 10 percent of maternal deaths worldwide.

We also heard from Dr. Godfrey Mbaruka, an ob-gyn in Tanzania. When he started working in rural Tanzania 14 years ago, he worked in a hospital where there were only two beds for delivery. Many women in his clinic would deliver babies on the floor. He saw that women were dying in conditions that could have easily been prevented, dying from bleeding during and after delivery, and from convulsions during labor and from anemia.

He spoke about the simple changes that additional resources allowed him to make, such as training and basic supplies including contraceptives, that helped reduce maternal mortality in his clinic by 50 percent.

However, this hospital could not sustain this improvement. Resources for reproductive health care started to fall in rural Tanzania, just at the time when an influx of refugees, some 500,000, of which 70 percent are women and children, further drained their resources.

Then we heard from Dr. Enyantu Ifenne, a pediatrician from Nigeria, who spoke at the White House on World Health Day about the differences family planning makes in the lives of women in Nigeria.

She spoke about an adolescent girl, Jemala, who was married at 12 and pregnant at 13. Jemala did not have access to desperately needed reproductive health care. She was in labor for 4 days and suffered life-altering damage.

Jemala is not alone. Complications of pregnancy in childbirth are some of the leading causes of disability for women in developing countries.

These are just a few stories, but there are countless others from Colombia to Kenya, from Nigeria to Nepal. Although these countries are very different from one another, what unites them is the fact that in each one women are dying needlessly because of the lack of access to effective family planning programs.

Last November, Congress enacted the onerous global gag rule, which sought to stifle doctors and health providers

from advocating for or against, with their own money, abortion reforms in their countries. The ob-gyns here in New York last week put it best when they said, "We are at a loss to understand how it is that the U.S. is now exporting as a matter of foreign policy a position that may expose more women to unnecessary health risks."

These doctors are calling on the United States to end the global gag rule because they cannot understand, as they said in their own words "being subjected to such a policy that not only would never be tolerated within the United States, but would be unconstitutional if applied to citizens of America."

Last week, we heard from Maria Isabel Plata, the executive director of Profamilia in Colombia, about how difficult it is to explain the gag rule to women in her country. In Colombia, unsafe abortion is the second leading cause of maternal mortality; and abortion is illegal, even in cases to save the life of the mother. Yet local organizations are afraid to talk to their policymakers about the impact of these laws on women's health.

Ms. Plata told us that women in her country now view the United States as a Nation that believes in two types of women: first, those who have human rights, those who can freely debate laws and policies in their own country; and, second, Colombian women who do not have those same basic human rights.

Mr. Speaker, for those who would question the value of U.S. dollars going overseas for family planning, for those of you who support the onerous global gag rule, I'd like you to consider the women of rural Tanzania; the adolescent girls from Nigeria; and all of the women around the world.

On behalf of the doctors on the front-line for women and children's health around the world, let's restore funding for international family planning programs without unconstitutional gag rules.

#### RELIGIOUS PERSECUTION OCCURRING IN TURKMENISTAN

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. HULSHOF). Under a previous order of the House, the gentleman from Pennsylvania (Mr. PITTS) is recognized for 5 minutes.

Mr. PITTS. Mr. Speaker, as a member of the Helsinki Commission, and also as the Cochair of the Religious Prisoners Congressional Task Force, I rise today to speak on behalf of a young man who has had his human rights violated, a young man with a wife and five young children, a man who, because of the peaceful practice of his religious beliefs, is in prison in Turkmenistan.

In December of 1998, security officials arrested and imprisoned Mr. Shageldy Atakov, pursued trumped-up charges against him, and on March 19, 1999, Mr. Atakov was sentenced to 2 years in prison. Why? Simply because he decided to change his religion from Muslim to Christian.